

IMPORTANT DATES

GATHERINGS

September 12th Ingomar UMC

October 10th Ingomar UMC

November 8th at Camp
Lutherlyn Men's Walk #67

December 12th at Regional
Locations

January 9th at Ingomar UMC

February 13th at Regional
Locations

March 13th Ingomar UMC

FALL WALKS

LUTHERLYN

Note Date Changes

Men's Walk #67 Nov 6-9, 2008

Women's Walk #68 Nov 13-16, 2008

SPRING WALKS

LUTHERLYN

Men's Walk #69 April 10 - 13, 2009

Women's Walk #70 April 17- 20,
2009

COMM.LAY DIRECTOR	PG.1
COMM. SPIRITUAL DR	PG.2
TRWE E-DAY PICNIC	PG.3
SCHOLARSHIP FORM	PG.5
KAIROS	PG 7

IF YOU CHOOSE TO GET YOUR
NEWSLETTER BY U S MAIL, PLEASE
SEND A CHECK FOR \$10 FOR A ONE
YEAR SUBSCRIPTION TO:
GARTH JOHNSTON
5877 PLEASANT STREET
SOUTH PARK, PA 15129.

THIS NEWSLETTER MAY BE
VIEWED AT WWW.TRWE.ORG

Three Rivers Walk To Emmaus

1995-2008 Sixteen years of Walking with Jesus

August 2008

From the Community Lay Director Sponsorship

The aim of a sponsor should not be "to get all my friends to go," to fill up the weekend, to fix people's problems, or to reproduce one's own religious experience in others. Rather, the aim of the sponsor is to bring spiritual revitalization to Christians who will, in turn, bring new life and vision to the work of the church in the congregation, home, workplace, and community. The aim of sponsorship is to build up the body of Christ. (The Upper Room Handbook *on Emmaus*)

Our fall walks are approaching and it is time to pray about those we might sponsor. We may choose to sponsor those from our home church, small group, coworkers, neighbors or relatives. Before approaching someone about the walk we must be sure to carefully consider our role as a sponsor. We are accepting the responsibility to support this person not only through the 72 hours of the walk but to help them begin their 4th days by helping them find a reunion group, attend gatherings and supporting them when they begin sponsoring pilgrims themselves.

We should not embark on this journey without first prayer, then proper preparation and finally trusting in God's plan. There is nothing like the joy of sponsorship an act of love for the participants, the community and their home church where they will return during their 4th days.

As you pray about sponsorship please also remember the team members who will be working hard to prepare for the Walks according to the guidelines of the Upper Room.

Join me as we help build up the Body of Christ!

DeColores
Bonnie Readie



FROM THE COMMUNITY SPIRITUAL DIRECTOR

I want to thank those who came to the Education Day Picnic. It is important for us as a community to continue to learn how to be better servants for Emmaus weekends and in our Forth Day. At the event, I gave a communion meditation that I would like to share with you. The text for this meditation is Matthew 14:22-31. It is a familiar passage but one that we in the Emmaus community can learn an important lesson.

Let's begin by looking at the passage. Picture the scene in your mind. Jesus steps out onto a deep blue sea after a wild, stormy, and windy night. You're in a small boat on a large lake, working hard to get across. The wind is against you, you're being battered by waves, and you spend the entire night straining to make progress. When morning comes, you slump over your oars, discouraged, exhausted and seasick. Suddenly Jesus appears, walking on the water. You're shocked, surprised, stunned ... even terrified. Is it a hallucination? A ghost? A god? Certainly nothing human can walk on water. But then Jesus says, "Take heart, it is I; do not be afraid" You are relieved because you know that with Jesus there, the storm cannot prevail against you, but to be sure you ask Jesus to let you come to him. "Come," he says. Jesus invites you to step into the water with him, and so you carefully put a foot out. You begin to make your way across the waves, but the wind suddenly whips up and startles you, and you begin to sink. Jesus reaches out, catches you, and chides you gently, "You of little faith, why did you doubt?"

Once Jesus has given the command, walking on water is simply a matter of trusting the One who has performed so many miracles in the past. Peter's failure comes as he observes the wind, looking to his situation rather than to God's power that is sustaining him. He took his eyes off of the source of his strength—his Lord. Still, Peter knows by this point whom to cry out to; his feeble attempt to walk on water is no more feeble than our first attempts to walk on land. Our faith may be more infantile than Peter's if we have never even tried to step out in obedience to Jesus' commands or direction for our lives. *You can never walk on water if you don't get out of the boat!*

It is important to note that while Jesus is disappointed with Peter's inadequate faith, Peter has acted in greater faith than the other disciples—he is *learning*. Faith cannot be worked up by formulas or emotion, but it grows through various tests as we continue to trust our Lord and he continues to teach us. *Faith grows out of a relationship with the Person of Jesus, and in no other way.*

Like Peter, sometimes God calls us to do something that we think is impossible for us or at least out of our comfort zone. Perhaps it is to be a table leader. Perhaps it is to give a talk on a weekend. Perhaps it is to be an assistant lay director or even a lay director. Perhaps you are a clergy member and you are asked to serve on a team or even be a head spiritual director. When you are called consider stepping out of the boat. Don't let your fear of not being perfect keep you in the boat. Keep your eyes on Jesus and He will walk with you.

De Colores,
Jerry Belloit

TRWE Picnic & E Day – August 9th

TRWE's last gathering was at Camp Lutherlyn. It was E-Day, an education day where much info was given out, communion shared, and a delicious meal was served. Our special Spiritual Directors, the ministers of our Emmaus community received "honorable mention" for their support to our community as well as their own home churches. We certainly could not have a Walk To Emmaus weekend without them!

Since E-Day, I have been thinking about the different "Spiritual Directors" that have influenced my life. My first experience with a minister was a unique one. My older sister and I were almost adopted by a local pastor and his wife. Years later, another minister showed me that there is more to this calling than giving a sermon on Sundays, and officiate weddings and funerals, much more . . .

Please take a few minutes to write a note to your own minister. Thank him or her for showing up at work every Sunday, rain or shine, no matter what was going on in their own personal life. Thank them for listening and tending to their congregations needs, many times going way beyond their job description.

I am going to write to mine, hmm where did I put that tablet with all those rainbows on it

DeColores,
Pam Walter
TRWE #42
Table of
Rachel



Last Saturday I went to my second e-day. The first I attended, last year, had presentations done by Emmaus staff from Nashville. This one had presentations done by members of the Board of Directors. As a handicapped person in a wheelchair I had a great deal of difficulty with last year's presentations which were done in a sanctuary that was not truly handicapped accessible. This year accessibility was no problem.

Last year the presentations were excellent and informative, as might be expected when done by people from the Upper Room. This year the members of the Board of Directors who made the presentations obviously put great effort into preparing, but the presentations tended to be a bit long. Last year there were numerous snacks available, but they were on a raised platform, which caused me some difficulty. This year, there were only some small snacks available.

After the presentations we held a mini-gathering, which, while it included an excellent sermon was not well prepared for in terms of having communion elements ready.

If this sounds entirely negative I can tell you things improved rapidly after we dismissed and went to the picnic shelter. The food prepared by the caterer was incredibly good. We had smoked pork plain and in barbecue sauce; smoked chicken, macaroni salad, potato salad, diet gelatin treats, cole slaw, smoked ribs, and so much more that I wondered how the caterer could prepare so much for the

price of \$10.00 per person. The food was as plentiful as at the best buffet I've attended and had as much variety as could be asked for.

Although only about 50 persons, by my estimate, attended, the event has to be regarded as a huge success. We have made a great start here. I would like to see hundreds at next year's event. Although I haven't polled the Board I feel that most, if not all, would agree. I know I am already anticipating the next one. We learned by our mistakes and we learned by the things that went well.

De Colores!

Richard Carson



Next Regional Gatherings

*****Four Great Locations – One Night *****

East – First UMC Murrysville

Central – Ingomar UMC

North – Harrisville UMC

South - 1st Presbyterian, Houston, PA

Friday, December 12th

Faithful Servants are needed!

If you would like to assist as a Leader, Clergy, 4th Day Speaker, Musician,
Snack/Fellowship Time Coordinator with Clean Up, please contact

John McMullan-724-772-6623 jmcmullan@zoominternet.net

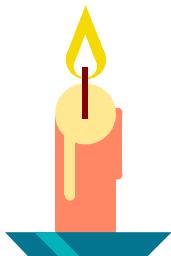


Jerry was on Walk #63 and his wife just had their first child.

Jerry O'Donnell's baby boy was born on 7/16/08.



Remember how all those glowing candles looked at your candle light service



Come and share this experience with the pilgrims of walks #67 and #68
Men's walk #67 November 8th at 7:30 PM at Camp Lutherlyn
Women's Walk #68 November 15th at 8:00 PM at Camp Lutherlyn

POLICIES & PROCEDURES
Lay Grant Scholarship Program
Western Pennsylvania Conference
The United Methodist Church

Revised: July 1, 2008

The following Policies & Procedures have been established in order to provide guidance and consistency in the administration of the Lay Grant Scholarship Program.

1. The program is available to all United Methodist lay people in the Western Pennsylvania Annual Conference who are full members of a local United Methodist Church in said Conference.
2. The purpose of the Lay Grant Scholarship Program is to aid laity in attending eligible training events that will be of benefit to the local church. Please include a summary or a brochure with your application.
3. There is a maximum of \$300 allowed an individual in any three calendar year period. The new three year cycle begins July 1, 2008.
4. Funding is for 50% of the total cost of the event, excluding all travel expenses, with a maximum of \$100 in any calendar year. No travel expenses, including transportation, tickets, fares, fees, or meals, and/or lodging incurred while traveling to or from an event are fundable.
5. Grants should not be requested for events costing less than \$20, excluding costs for travel.
6. Grants will not be made for college courses, correspondence courses, or continuing education courses or which academic credit is awarded.
7. Grants are not available for conference Christian Outdoor Education Programs. See Camping Brochure for information on Campership aid.
8. Grants are not available for individual local church events.
9. An application must be submitted prior to the event.
10. Applications must be signed by the local pastor. Directors of Programs, District Superintendents, Conference employees, etc. may sign the form.
11. Final eligibility is at the discretion of the Lay Grant Scholarship committee.

LAY GRANT SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION
 Western Pennsylvania Conference The United Methodist Church

Your Name _____

Your Address _____

Your Telephone Number _____

Name of Event _____

Address of Event _____

Telephone Number of Event _____

Date of Event _____

Sponsor of Event _____

This event will make me more effective in the local church by _____

Date: _____

I recommend: ___ Approval ___ Disapproval

Comments: _____

District _____

Church _____

Pastor's signature _____

Note: Funding is for not more than 50% of the total amount. Funds may be limited according to funds available.

Purpose: The purpose of the Lay Grant Scholarship Program is to aid laity in attending eligible training events that will be of direct benefit to the local church.

Source: The funds for laity scholarship come from three sources. Your Mission Share, Endowments and the yearly Christian Education Offering are added together to create these funds. The funds are a true investment in the lay leadership of our Conference. You can help by promoting the Christian Education Sunday special offering each September.

FUNDS REQUESTED: Use total amount listed in the event's brochure or advertisements. The committee will then adjust for the proper amount of funding.

Registration/Tuition _____

Lodging _____

Meals _____

Materials _____

Travel **NON-REFUNDABLE**

TOTAL _____

(Please attach a copy of the brochure/flyer.)

OFFICE USE ONLY

Approved: _____

Disapproved: _____

Reason: _____

Amount Approved: _____

Signature: _____

SEND COMPLETED APPLICATIONS TO:
Rev. Beth L. Nelson, UM Center, PO Box 5002
Cranberry Twp, Pa 16066 Or faxed to 724-776-1355
 (See Over for Policies and Procedures)

Kairos Prison Ministry

*Jesus, come join us in our journey as we seek your will for this community **in this environment**. Teach us to love each other as you love us, to give ourselves as you give yourself that the Kingdom of God might be made present to all. (**Kairos Community Prayer**)*



If you have been following the Kairos articles in the TRWE Newsletters, you've gleaned that there are many similarities between the Emmaus and Kairos communities. Both are patterned after the original **cursillo** model that started in Spain. Both have three-day weekends with talks, singing, posters, skits, agape, unforgettable worship experiences, special spiritual events (such as Candlelight for Emmaus, a Forgiveness Service for Kairos, among others), etc. Both encourage those who attend to develop a deep and lasting **relationship** with Jesus the Christ. Both encourage those who have attended to continue their participation after their weekends by involving themselves in small groups.

In past articles, I've related how each Friday evening, from 6:30 to 8:00 P.M, residents who have attended Kairos weekends are invited to come to the prison chapel to participate in what we in Emmaus call **group reunions**. I wish that I had the words to tell you just how blessed I have been by participating in these (what Kairos calls) **prayer and share** groups. They have become one of the highlights of my week.

Lately, there has been some minor squabbling among those who attend. It seems that the more weekends we have, the fewer guys there are who make a solid commitment to attend Prayer and Share. Any time that happens, folks are likely to start pointing fingers. It's "only human" to do so. It also emphasizes just how important Christian community can be. Our commitment to the Lord is made strong by our fellowship with other Christians. Fortunately, with this group, it also encouraged a whole bunch of group prayer.

Jesus once told a story about a farmer who went out to plant his fields. Some of the seed he scattered fell on hard ground, where it was eaten by birds; some fell on rocky soil, where it quickly flashed up but quickly died because of lack of a foundation; some fell among thorns where it quickly got choked out; and some fell in good soil where it produced a solid crop. In my Kairos experience, we've had guys who have come to the weekend and then never came back, guys who came to Prayer and Share for a few weeks and seemed like they would be great additions to the brotherhood, but who flamed out; some who came for various amounts of time, but who suddenly stopped because they found other "interests" on Friday nights; and some who have come, some from the very first Prayer and Share for which they were eligible, and who have never missed. Some have become great Christian leaders in the Fellowship. (Knowing TRWE like I do, I'm sure we've experienced the same thing!)

One thing that Kairos has that is slightly different from anything in Emmaus is what we have come to call **Ultreyas**. (The nearest thing I can compare an **Ultreya** to in Emmaus is an "E-Day like was just held"). Anyone who has ever attended a Kairos weekend is invited to attend the semi-annual **Ultreyas**. It is an all-day retreat where we take one of the talks from the Kairos weekend and expand on it, look at it from different angles and discuss it.

Recently, we held our 5th **Ultreya**. It was based on a Kairos talk called **Footprints in the Sand**. The talk is based on the familiar story, and it encourages participants to think about their lives, draw a "lifeline" of the times when they were closest to, and farthest away from, God. We combined an expanded version of the **Footprints** talk with a lengthy discussion of Henri Nouwen's **The Wounded Healer**, and called it: **Footprints in the Sand: Becoming the Wounded Healer through Self-examination**. The guys examined and confessed to another human being the time in their lives when they were the farthest away from God, and then discussed at length how using our worst times, and how choosing to become vulnerable, compassionate and hospitable to one another, could help us to become the kind of Christian leaders that Christ calls us to be.

We all know that God answers prayers. The Holy Spirit moved on the hearts of many of the guys who had fallen away from attending Friday Prayer and Share and led them to the chapel for the retreat. By the end of the day, God (as only He can do) had broken nearly everyone in the room. Suddenly, many of the guys (and not just the residents) suddenly "got it" that we were, in spite of what we thought about ourselves, still wearing masks, playing "Christians," being jerks, in essence. The retreat taught us all that, as Henri Nouwen said, it is in our brokenness that we are most human; and when we are most human, it is then that we are most like Christ.

A lot of the guys who had fallen away came up to the volunteers at the end of the day and said that they will be back. GOD IS GOOD!

Bill Korb, TRWE #31, Table of James

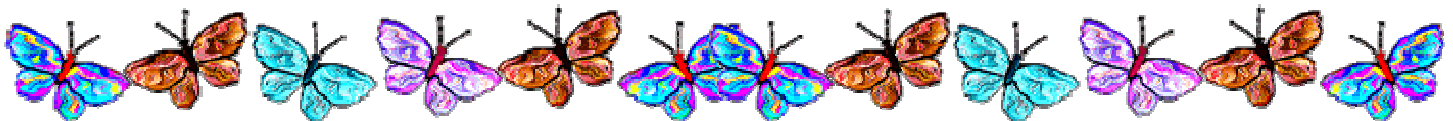
Reunion Groups

If you have any changes to your information i.e.: place, time, contact person PLEASE send the information to Andy Wahl at pastorandy@comcast.net



We are all Connected

IN YOUR FOURTH DAYS I AM SURE YOU HAVE SOME GREAT STORIES OF HOW THE WALK TO EMMAUS HAS OPEN DOORS AND YOUR EYES. IF YOU WOULD KINDLY WRITE THE STORY UP AND SEND IT TO ME I CAN USE THEM IN FUTURE NEWSLETTERS. THESE STORIES OF CHANCE MEETING AND CROSS COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS WILL SO US HOW WE ARE ALL CONNECTED AND BROTHERS AND SISTERS IN CHRIST



Did you sign up to receive the prayer chain requests but are not receiving them? Did you change your email address and not let Bo Pratt know? If you want to be included in the prayer chain, please send your correct email address to Rpratt2707@aol.com.

Prayer requests may also be sent here.

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